

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 3, 12, 13 and 20 of the application and amend Claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A transgenic plant comprising in its genome a transgene encoding a member FLC gene family, the transgenic plant having altered early timing of its flowering compared to non-transgenic plants of the same species.

2. (Original) A transgenic plant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transgenic plant flowers earlier than non-transgenic plants of the same species.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A transgenic plant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the member of the FLC gene family is selected from the group consisting of FLC1, FLC2 and FLC3 from *Arabidopsis thaliana* and BrFLC1A and BrFLC1B from *Brassica rapa*.

5. (Original) Seed of the transgenic plant of claim 1.

6. (Currently amended) A seed for a transgenic plant, the seed comprising in its genome a transgene comprising a plant expressible promoter and an antisense coding region complementary to a protein coding region for a plant FLC protein, the plant FLC protein (i) having a MADS box domain, (ii) being at least 40% identical in amino acid sequence to the FLC1 or the FLC2 protein from Arabidopsis, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, outside of the region of the MADS box domain, and (iii) effective when expressed in transgenic plants to cause a delay in the onset of flowering in the transgenic plant as compared to a non-transgenic plant of the same genetic background.

7. (Original) A plant grown from the seed of claim.

8. (Original) A seed as claimed in claim 6 wherein the FLC protein is at least 50% identical to the amino acid sequence of the FLC1 gene outside of the MADS box domain.

9. (Currently amended) A seed for a transgenic plant comprising in its genome a transgene comprising a plant expressible promoter and sequence complementary to a protein coding region for a member of the FLC family of proteins, the member of the FLC family of proteins being phylogenically more related to the FLC1 or the FLC2 protein from *Arabidopsis thaliana* than to any other MADS box domain protein from *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

10. (Original) A transgenic plant cultivated from the seed of claim 9.

11. (Original) A seed for a transgenic plant, the seed comprising in its genome a transgene comprising a plant expressible promoter operable connected to a sequence encoding the complement to a sufficient portion of a protein coding region for a plant FLC protein to lower the level of endogenous FLC protein activity in a plant grown from the seed, the plant FLC protein (i) having a MADS box domain, (ii) being at least 40% identical in amino acid sequence to the FLC1 or the FLC2 protein from *Arabidopsis*, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, outside of the region of the MADS box domain, and (iii) effective when expressed in transgenic plants to cause a delay in the onset of flowering in the transgenic plant as compared to a non-transgenic plant of the same genetic background.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A genetic construction comprising a plant expressible promoter operably connected to a sequence complementary to a protein coding sequence for a protein of the FLC gene family, the plant FLC protein (i) having a MADS box domain, (ii) being at least 40% identical in amino acid sequence to the FLC1 (SEQ ID NO:2) or the FLC2 (SEQ ID NO:4) protein from *Arabidopsis*, and (iii) effective when expressed in transgenic plants to cause a delay in the onset of flowering in the transgenic plant as compared to a non-transgenic plant of the same genetic background.

15. (Original) A plant comprising in its genome the genetic construction of claim 14.

16. (Original) A genetic construction as claimed in claim 14 wherein the FLC protein is selected from the group consisting of FLC1, FLC2 and FLC3 from *Arabidopsis thaliana* and BrFLC1A and BrFLC1B from *Brassica rapa*.

17. (Original) A genetic construction as claimed in claim 14 wherein the plant FLC gene is at least 50% identical in amino acid sequence to the FLC1 protein from Arabidopsis, SEQ ID NO:1.

18. (Original) A genetic construction comprising a plant expressible promoter operably connected to sequence sufficiently complementary to a protein coding sequence for a protein of the FLC gene family so as to lower the activity of the FLC protein in a transgenic plant, the plant FLC protein (i) having a MADS box domain, (ii) being at least 40% identical in amino acid sequence to the FLC1 protein from Arabidopsis, SEQ ID NO:1, and (iii) effective when expressed in transgenic plants to cause a delay in the onset of flowering in the transgenic plant as compared to a non-transgenic plant of the same genetic background.

19. (Currently amended) A transgenic plant comprising a transgene for a member of the FLC gene family wherein flower initiation in the genetically modified plant occurs at least about 7 days before ~~or after~~ flower initiation in a non-transgenic plant of the same genetic background without the transgene while being grown under the same conditions.

20. (Cancelled)